

Aruba: The island of Aloes



Page 4

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Trump's first full day back in White House includes firings and an infrastructure announcement

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is spending his first full day back in the White House meeting with congressional leaders, announcing an investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure and demonstrating one of his favored expressions of power: firing people. The new president posted on his Truth social media network early Tuesday that he would fire more than 1,000 presidential appointees "who are not aligned with our vision," including some high-profile names. Trump fired chef and humanitarian Jose Andres from the President's Council on Sports, Fitness and



President Donald Trump, from left, salutes alongside first lady Melania Trump, Vice President JD Vance and his wife Usha Vance during the national prayer service at the Washington National Cathedral, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

join Trump in the afternoon to announce the creation of a new company called Stargate, which would invest up to \$500 billion over the next four years in AI infrastructure, according to the White House.

Stargate intends to start building the project in Texas.

Trump also attended a national prayer service Tuesday morning at Washington National Cathedral, a customary visit for new presidents and one that will wrap up his four days of inauguration-related events.

One of the speakers at the interfaith service, the Right Rev. Mariann Budde, the Episcopal bishop of Washington, used her sermon to send a message to Trump, urging compassion for LGBTQ+ people and undocumented migrant workers. "You have felt the providential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy on the people in our country who are scared now," said Budde, who has criticized Trump before.

Asked afterward by a reporter what he thought of the service, Trump said: "Not too exciting was it. I didn't think it was a good service. They could do much better." Later in the day, the president was expected to meet with House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune and other GOP legislators. It's the first formal sit-down for the GOP leadership teams, including House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Senate GOP Whip John Barraso and the new president, as they chart priorities for using Republican power in Washington. □

Nutrition, retired Gen. Mark Milley from the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, former State Department official Brian Hook from the board of the Wilson Center and former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms from the President's Export Council. "YOU'RE FIRED!" Trump said in his post his catchphrase from his reality TV show, "The Apprentice." Former President Joe Biden also removed many Trump appointees in his first days in office, including former press secretary Sean Spicer from the board overseeing the U.S. Naval Academy. Trump was set to continue building on his barrage of Inauguration Day announcements on Tuesday with plans to announce a new partnership to invest in artificial intelligence. Three major business leaders SoftBank Group CEO Masayoshi Son, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Oracle Corp. Chairman Larry Ellison were scheduled to

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Infini Reopens: A Story of Resilience, Gratitude, and Renewal

After several challenging days of recovery following the severe flooding that impacted our operations, Infini by Urvin Croes is pleased to announce that we are fully open once again.

Seeing our kitchen flooded was a moment of great concern for our entire team. However, thanks to the unwavering dedication of our staff, the support of our families, friends, suppliers, and the encouraging messages from our community, we found the strength to rebuild, return stronger than ever, and do so in record time.

A Safer and More Resilient Infini

In response to this unprecedented challenge, we have implemented significant measures to ensure the safety and integrity of our restaurant moving forward. New drainage systems have been installed to effectively manage any potential future flooding, protecting our space from similar incidents. We have also reinforced our infrastructure, including repairs to



the front windows and an updated inspection protocol for critical equipment, creating a safer environment for our guests and staff alike.

These efforts are part of our unwavering commitment to excellence—not just in culinary artistry, but in the overall experience and security we provide to everyone who steps into Infini.

A New Chapter Begins

This experience has reminded us of the power of unity and resilience. We are filled with gratitude for each and every one of you who supported us through

this journey. We are thrilled to welcome you back to **Infini** with our new **Menu 12**, which our team has worked tirelessly to create. This exciting menu celebrates the art of gastronomy and the rich culinary heritage of Aruba and the Caribbean, all in partnership with our valued local suppliers.

However, we must note that due to the damage sustained, some of our equipment is still out of operation. This temporarily limits our ability to accommodate dietary restrictions, allergies, or preferences with the level of care we usually provide. We will inform you as soon as we are able to offer vegan options or other dietary accommodations once again. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and deeply appreciate your understanding as we continue to improve our operations.



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Let's create unforgettable moments together once more. □



Mexico defends sovereignty as U.S. seeks to label cartels as terrorists

By MEGAN JANETSKY

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum said Tuesday that President Donald Trump's executive order moving toward designating drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations would only impact Mexico if there's close coordination between the two governments.

She said that Mexico would defend its sovereignty and independence while seeking coordination with the U.S. in the wake of the order signed Monday. "We all want to fight the drug cartels," Sheinbaum said at her daily press briefing. The U.S. "in their territory, us in our territory." Trump's order highlighted Mexican drug cartels and other Latin American criminal groups like Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua and Salvadoran gang Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). The order

says they "threaten the safety of the American people, the security of the United States, and the stability of the international order in the Western Hemisphere." The order did not list any Mexican cartels by name but said Cabinet secretaries would recommend groups for designation as terrorist organizations in the next 14 days. It was among a slew of executive orders Trump signed Monday to kick off his administration, several of which focus on securing the southern border.

"The Cartels have engaged in a campaign of violence and terror throughout the Western Hemisphere that has not only destabilized countries with significant importance for our national interests but also flooded the United States with deadly drugs, violent criminals, and vicious gangs," the order reads. □

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Cocktails with a Story: Caya House Brings a Unique Flavor Experience to Aruba

This season, Caya House invites guests to discover a cocktail menu that blends unique flavors from Latin America and the Caribbean into every drink. Under the direction of mixologist David Posada, each cocktail at Caya House tells a story, designed to take guests on a sensory journey that captures the vibrant essence of the region through every ingredient.

“At Caya, we believe cocktails are more than just drinks. They’re an opportunity to experience the distinctive flavors and aromas of our lands,” says David Posada, mixologist. Each cocktail is crafted with precision, combining modern and traditional techniques with exotic fruits, spices, and artisanal spirits.

Among the menu favorites are:

- **Warawara:** A refreshing mix of Caravella orancello, Sloe gin, pumpkin spice, and banana syrup, served over spear ice. This cocktail evokes the essence of autumn in the tropics.
- **Tu Corazon:** A standout drink with açai-infused cachaca and a hint of raw sugar, topped with a crisp slice of red beet for a unique, earthy finish.
- **Un Recuerdo:** A bold fusion of mezcal with tree tomato, butter infused with parmesan and shiitake, green tea cordial, and green chartreuse. Perfect for those looking for a robust, one-of-a-kind experience.



Caya House also features its signature **Lulada**, made with Flor de Caña rum infused with lulo, condensed milk, and lime leather—a perfect balance of sweetness and freshness for those seeking a tropical twist.

These cocktails are part of the “Caya Experience,” with a wider variety of options for guests to explore, notes David, highlighting

the creativity behind each one. With this unique offering, Caya House continues to stand out as an iconic destination for those in search of authentic Caribbean flavors in **Aruba**.

Caya House invites alike to enjoy this innovative cocktail menu in the heart of Palm Beach, Aruba. Each drink is a celebration of Latin-Caribbean culture and flavor!

Aruba: The island of Aloes

ORANJESTAD – Aloe vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island’s economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but power-

ful laxative, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

According to the website of Royal Aruba Aloe, Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island’s inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname “The Island of Aloes.”

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the

19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting

fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname “The Island of Aloes.” And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba’s coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island.

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Aruba mystical sites

The narrative shared through Etnia Nativa emphasizes the importance of reclaiming and recognizing the island's cultural roots and heritage, which have often been overshadowed by colonial history. The platform actively engages in promoting the value of rediscovering native traditions, history and identity, while highlighting the importance of moving beyond colonial influences, submissive behavior or over exploitation and decimation of our natural resources.

During this episode we will share with you a little bit of the prehistoric shelters we can still enjoy today. It's about giant rock boulders (batholiths) that you can find almost everywhere on our island. Some form part of the north-coastline and others, "staked boulders", are recurring throughout the islands' landscape, especially those in and around Santa Cruz district that gained tourist attraction qualifications. These large boulders played a very important role in the lives of our archaic as well as our primitive inhabitants. They were formed deep within the Earth's crust, and the big rocks associated with them are fragments that broke off due to natural weathering, erosion processes and other phenomena.

In prehistoric times, batholiths were important landmarks for survival. Early humans would have recognized the protective qualities of these massive rock bodies, using them as shelters to shield themselves from environmental dangers and predators. Over time, they might have also learned to exploit the natural resources surrounding these batholithic areas, making them crucial sites for habitation



and survival. Batholiths often contain cracks, fissures, and erosion-resistant layers, which over time may develop into caves or natural overhangs. These formations would offer protection from wind, rain, and extreme temperatures. The walls of these shelters, formed from durable igneous rock like granite, would also have provided a defensive advantage, making it harder for predators to reach.

The massive size and solidity of batholiths would have created stable microclimates, shielding occupants from harsh environmental conditions. On our island, batholiths offered a respite. Their dense rock structure absorbs and retains heat during the day and releases it slowly during the cooler night, creating a relatively stable environment within the shelter. Batholiths often form highland areas with difficult-to-reach locations and could have provided strategic advantages in terms of defense. Being on high ground could make it easier to spot approaching predators or rivals. The steep terrain and difficult access to batholith shelters would have deterred animals and other groups from encroaching on their territory.

In addition to providing shelter, batholiths offered resources such as stone tools and natural rain water collectors. The exposed surfaces of a batholith, being made of hard materials like granite, would have been a reliable source of flint or other stones that our ancestors could use for crafting tools, weapons, "metates" or fire-starting equipment. Some batholiths also form near river valleys or areas rich in game, providing a convenient location for hunting or gathering.

Some batholiths and their surroundings may have held cultural or spiritual significance for primitive inhabitants of our island. The imposing nature of these mas-

Episode CCLXXXVII - 287

sive rock formations could have inspired awe, and their durability might have made them a symbolic representation of strength, stability, or protection. Archaeological sites near batholiths have been found to include rock art and lithic objects, suggesting that these areas were not just places of shelter but also locations of spiritual or cultural activity.

Shelters found within them were used for extended periods of time. Early humans might have returned to these natural shelters repeatedly, taking advantage of their lasting protection and comfort. In some cases, batholiths might have served as seasonal homes, particularly for nomadic groups who moved according to weather or food availability.

One example of a large batholith is Santa Cruz, like "Ayo" and "Casibari" rock formations. This region, with its extensive granite rock formations, would have provided shelter for generations of Aruba's prehistoric inhabitants. The rugged terrain includes cliffs, caves, and outcrops that would have offered places to hide or rest, while the surrounding area is rich in resources like water, game, and plant life. □

If you liked our native stories and are interested in learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. It has been a trend setter since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper continues to share its valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through learning real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com



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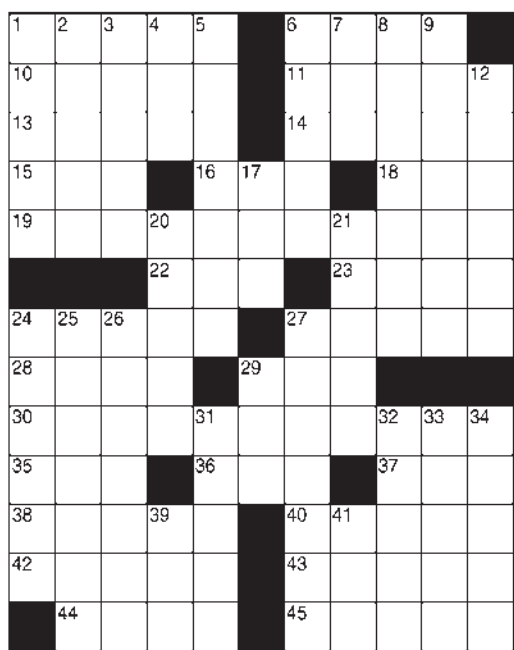
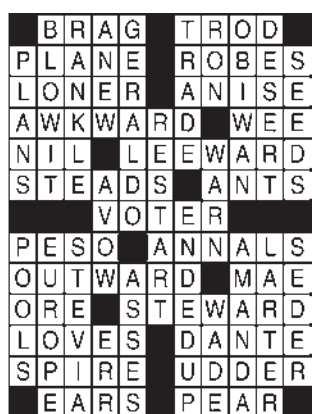
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Company division
- 6 Asterisk
- 10 Packing box
- 11 Insertion symbol
- 13 Eternal City resident
- 14 "— at the office"
- 15 Game caller
- 16 North Pole worker
- 18 Chess pieces
- 19 Rock instruments
- 22 Crone
- 23 Judicious
- 24 Christmas song
- 27 Walks nervously
- 28 Wilson of "Loki"
- 29 French assent
- 30 Ones trying to get home
- 35 Museum contents
- 36 Catchall abbr.
- 37 Big tub
- 38 Rental contract
- 40 Port-au-Prince's nation
- 42 Add up
- 43 Complete
- 44 Mob pursuers

DOWN

- 1 Wash vigorously
- 2 Fragrance
- 3 End table lights
- 4 Greek vowel
- 5 West African nation
- 6 Futuristic genre
- 7 Play-ground game
- 8 Language of biblical times
- 9 Car gear
- 12 Past and present
- 17 Tote
- 20 Was bright
- 21 Tom Sawyer's creator
- 24 Brittle metal
- 25 Not oblivious to
- 26 Put in other words
- 27 Add energy to, as a speech
- 29 Unconscious
- 31 Staggers
- 32 Musical set in Argentina
- 33 Critic, at times
- 34 Mixes up
- 39 Feeling down
- 41 Consumed



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

B V Z T G O F B I W L O X T Z V
K Z Y O X W L O W F O O X M T G
I B O K G X W L M W B W D B X X O X
W L O P X Z J O T W K R ? — K O V B X
S M F F Z K K

Cryptoquote: THERE IS NO WINTER WITHOUT SNOW, NO SPRING WITHOUT SUNSHINE, AND NO HAPPINESS WITHOUT COMPANIONS. — KOREAN PROVERB

Ichiro is set to become Japan's first Hall of Famer. Here's who might join him in Cooperstown

By RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ichiro Suzuki could become the first Japanese player in baseball's Hall of Fame, and CC Sabathia, Billy Wagner and Carlos Beltrán also could be elected Tuesday when results of the writers' voting are announced. Anyone receiving the required 75% from the Baseball Writers' Association of America will be inducted into the Hall at Cooperstown on July 27 along with Dave Parker and Dick Allen, voted in last month by the classic era committee. Suzuki could join Mariano Rivera as the only unanimous picks for Cooperstown. Rivera is the only player to get a 100% vote from the BBWAA, appearing on all 425 ballots in 2019. Derek Jeter was picked



New York Yankees' Ichiro Suzuki, right, celebrates with teammate Mariano Rivera (42) after a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays on Aug. 21, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

on 395 of 396 in 2020 and Ken Griffey Jr. on 437 of 440 in 2016. Suzuki came to Major League Baseball from Japan as a 27-year-old in 2001 and joined Fred Lynn in 1975 as the only players to win AL Rookie of the Year and AL MVP in the same season.

He was a two-time AL batting champion and 10-time All-Star and Gold Glove outfielder, hitting .311 with 117 homers, 780 RBIs and 509 stolen bases with Seattle (2001-12, 2018-19), the New York Yankees (2012-14) and Miami (2015-17). □



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Coco Gauff says she has more work to do after losing at the Australian Open. Djokovic beats Alcaraz

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Coco Gauff's retooled forehand and serve abandoned her in the worst way and at the worst time at the Australian Open. The unforced errors just kept accumulating Tuesday, and so did the double-faults and break points, often followed by a palm placed over her eyes or a slap to a thigh.

Add it all up, and Gauff's trip to Melbourne Park and her 13-match winning streak that dated to late last season ended in the quarterfinals.

Never able to take control on a hot afternoon in Rod Laver Arena, the 2023 U.S. Open champion was eliminated by No. 11 Paula Badosa of Spain 7-5, 6-4.

Using tweaks to some key strokes, and a change to her coaching team after a disappointing end to her title defense in New York in September, the 20-year-old Gauff arrived in Australia with hopes of earning a second Grand Slam title.

"I feel like (at the) U.S. Open, I was playing with no solution, so that was more the frustrating part. Today, I feel like I'm playing with solutions; I know what I need to work on. U.S. Open, I needed to work on my serve.

Not saying that my serve is where I want it to be, but I worked on it; obviously, a big improvement. So I want to continue working on that, continue working on playing aggressive," Gauff said.

"So I feel like I'm on the road to the right way, right path," she said. "Even though I lost today, I feel like I'm in an upward trajectory."



Paula Badosa of Spain reacts after winning her quarterfinal match against Coco Gauff of the U.S. at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025.

Associated Press

The American entered Tuesday with a 9-0 record in 2025; she also won her last four matches of last season to collect the trophy at the WTA Finals in November.

"Just a lot more work to do," Gauff said after the 1-hour, 43-minute loss to Badosa, who had been 0-2 in Grand Slam quarterfinals. "I'm obviously disappointed, but I'm not completely crushed."

Badosa now heads to her first Grand Slam semifinal at age 27 and less than a year after she was contemplating retirement because of a stress fracture in her back that took what felt like forever to heal and did not initially respond to cortisone injections.

"I wanted to (give) it a last try," Badosa said. "Well, here I am. So I'm really proud of what we went through with all my team and especially how

I (fought) through all that, especially mentally."

In Thursday's semifinals, she will go up against her close friend, No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka, the two-time defending champion in Melbourne. Sabalenka stretched her winning streak in the tournament to 19 matches by getting past No. 27 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Novak Djokovic reached his 50th Grand Slam semifinal as he pursues a record 25th trophy at a major, getting past Carlos Alcaraz 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 across more than 3 1/2 hours in a match that ended at nearly 1 a.m. Djokovic took a medical timeout late in the first set to get his left leg taped but later said he eventually felt better thanks to pills he was given by the tournament doctor.

Djokovic will now face No. 2 Alexander Zverev, a two-

time finalist at other majors, on Friday.

Zverev got to the final four in Melbourne for the third time since 2020 by beating No. 12 Tommy Paul 7-6 (1), 7-6 (0), 2-6, 6-1. Paul was one point from taking the first set, then a point from taking the second, but couldn't close the deal, and Zverev was simply superior in the ensuing tiebreakers.

Badosa was hurt during a practice at the tournament in Rome in May 2023, shortly after she began working with coach Pol Toledo. A year later, including several months off the tour, there still were issues.

"The reality is that the back was not responding. We couldn't find a solution. Paula was frustrated," Toledo said.

"I was like: This is not working. I don't know what we have to do."

Relying on a new doctor, fitness coach and nutritionist, Badosa tried different exercises and supplements, and her back improved.

"The puzzle," she said, "started to look better."

On Tuesday, she kept the pressure on Gauff, who finished with 41 unforced errors, including six double-faults and 28 missed forehands. Badosa compiled 10 break points and won four of Gauff's service games.

Gauff, meanwhile, never earned so much as a single break point until after already down a set and a break.

One key game and one that illustrated Gauff's problems on this afternoon started the second set. It lasted 22 points spread over more than a dozen minutes, and Badosa converted her fifth break chance after Gauff missed two forehands in a row.

Of Badosa's 12 points in that game, 11 came via mistakes by Gauff, including seven errant forehands. "Today," Gauff said, "she did better in those key moments."

When Badosa ended the quarterfinal with a forehand winner, she placed her hand over her mouth, then knelt on the ground and bowed her head. This was a big moment for someone who reached a career-best ranking of No. 2 in 2022, but only now believes she's reached her full potential.

"Emotionally, I wanted it so much," Badosa said. "I'm never going to feel freedom until I win the tournament."

I'm always like this. It's my personality. It's my character." □